



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## **DRABA VENTOSA**

### **WIND RIVER DRABA**

Wind River Draba is a mat-forming perennial with basal leaf clusters and leafless stems 2-4 cm tall, arising from numerous rootcrown branches that are clothed with old leaf bases. The fleshy, narrowly egg-shaped leaves are 5-12 mm long and 2-4 mm wide, have entire margins, and are densely covered with branched hairs. 3-20 stalked flowers are borne at the tops of the stems. Each flower has 4 separate sepals, 4 separate, yellow petals that are 4-5 mm long, and 4 long and 2 short stamens. The style is 1.0-1.5 mm long. The hairy, flattened, egg-shaped capsules are 5-8 mm long and are borne on ascending to spreading stalks that are as long as the capsules. Flowering in late June-July, fruiting in August.

The more common *DRABA PAYSONII* also has leaves densely covered with branched hairs, but the leaves average less than 2 mm wide. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.